



588
January
2014

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org



The Online DXCC system

Bill Moore, NC1L, says, "Just a quick note regarding the Online DXCC system for your applicants.

Periodically, I see where applicants open the Online system and begin the data entry. At the end rather than do one more step what they are doing is printing out the QSO record sheet then they back out. They bring their cards to you for normal checking but when you send the form to me, DXCC staff needs to do the data entry in the old manual method charging the higher fee schedule.

The Online system is designed to be 100% electronic and if they do just one more step they will have - saved you some checking time - saved DXCC staff from having to manually enter, potentially, hundreds of QSOs and saved themselves some money

If an applicant comes to you with the Traditional paper application but, the record sheet(s) have the title as the screen shot I posted below, you might stop and check with them and if they have not used the system as designed you can encourage them to go back and complete it. Remember, if they bring to you 5 QSOs or 500 and we have to do them manually there are going to pay a lot more than if they used the system as it was designed. Here is a comparison and let's base it on 200 QSOs:

For manual processing they would pay \$15 for the basic application. Starting at QSO #101 each QSO is \$0.15 (QSO total fee is \$15.00). So the minimum application would cost them \$30 plus other fees for the matrix, etc.

For the same processing with the Online System the basic application would be \$7.50. Starting at QSOs #101 each QSO is \$0.08 (QSO total fee is \$8.00) So their minimum application fee would be \$15.50 plus any other fees for the matrix, etc.

For a small number of QSOs the manual data entry is really quick but they still would pay the higher fee. So, if you see that they have not taken full advantage of the way Online DXCC works you might ask (encourage) them to hold off and utilise this option for the 3 reasons I mentioned above. It is strictly their choice

This is what the top of each page of the Online DXCC system record sheet looks like:



Online DXCC QSLs

Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

January

1 - New Years Day; start of ARRL Centennial QSO Party; Start of 2014 CQ DX Marathon; start of CDXC DX Marathon Challenge
11 and 12 - Hunting Lions-in-the-Air
13 - SARL Office opens
15 - All schools open
17 to 19 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
18 - SARL@Home
25 - Summer QRP Contest
31 - Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2014 AGM

February

1 and 2 - AWA CW Activity Day
8 and 9 - SARL National Field Day; SARL VHF/UHF Contest
14 Valentine's Day
10 to 15 - SARL Youth Week
15 - SARL Youth Contest
15 and 16 - ARRL International DX CW Contest
23 - SARL Digital Contest

DXCC News

Bill Moore NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager reports that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit: ZD9KX - Tristan Da Cunha & Gough Is, the 2012 and 2103 Operation.

(Thank you Tjerk, ZS6P)



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



HF Happenings

Solar Weather - A & K Index Explanation

The Earth's magnetic field is continuously monitored by a network of magnetometers. These readings are converted into the A and K index values.

The K index is computed once every three hours (eight times a day) and the values can range from 0 to 9, with 0 being inactive, and 9 representing an extreme severe storm condition. The values are quasi-logarithmic.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * K = 0 Inactive | * K = 1 Very quiet |
| * K = 2 Quiet | * K = 3 Unsettled |
| * K = 4 Active | * K = 5 Minor storm |
| * K = 6 Major storm | * K = 7 Severe storm |
| * K = 8 Very severe storm | * K = 9 Extremely severe storm |

The A index is linear, and is computed from the eight previous K index values. It ranges from 0 (quiet) to 400 (severe storm).

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| * A = 0 - 7 Quiet | * A = 8 - 15 Unsettled |
| * A = 8 - 15 Unsettled | * A = 16 - 29 Active |
| * A = 30 - 49 Minor storm | * A = 50 - 99 Major storm |
| * A = 100 - 400 Severe storm | |

Generally, propagation conditions are best when the A index is 15 or lower, and the K index is 3 or lower. Besides causing auroral activity, high geomagnetic field conditions can affect the electrons in the ionosphere, reducing the maximum usable frequency (MUF).

(Thanks to the YL Newsletter)

CQ DX Marathon

The CQ DX Marathon, www.dxmarathon.com, is a year-long DX hunt, with participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of countries ("entities") and CQ zones during the calendar year.

The 2014 edition will start at 00:00 UTC on 1 January and will end at 23:59 UTC on 31 December.

For 2014, the CQ Marathon is introducing a third class of competition: the new Limited Class will allow those running 100 watts and small directional antennas to participate in their own class. Complete rules at www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/index_cq_contests.html

Weird and Wonderful

In our world of Radio Communications over the years maybe the Weirdest you may have come across are what are known as "The Numbers Stations."

Many have heard of the Cuban numbers being read by a female, but here in VK, Cherry Ripe, was the nickname of a mysterious, powerful shortwave numbers station that used several bars from the English folk song "Cherry Ripe" as an interval signal. The station was believed to be operated by the British Secret Intelligence Service and to have emanated from Australia.

It is likely that the station was used to communicate messages to undercover agents operating in other countries, to be decoded using a one-time pad.

Cherry Ripe had a more famous and much more active Middle-Eastern cousin, the Lincolnshire Poacher, which also used several bars from the English folk song of the same name as its interval signal. Lincolnshire Poacher had long been suspected as being operated by Britain and had been detected as emanating from Cyprus.

Apart from the interval signal, the format and voice of these two stations was identical, though as of July 2008 the Lincolnshire Poacher appeared to no longer be active and December 2009 Cherry Ripe also went off air.

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www.somethingelserreviews.com have in their December issue a great story complete with many recordings.

Though most governments probably don't want to go on record admitting this, shortwave counting stations were set up to enable one-way communications to a spy embedded in an area. Secret messages are encoded as numbers and are transmitted, after a short and (sometimes) snappy musical preamble, via the human voice. Since they probably change the cipher for each message, and because it's nearly impossible to locate the consumer, this method of information broadcast is supposed to be highly secure.

So why would a person want to listen to this stuff?

Well back in the cold war period, late 50's late 70's you couldn't really tune too far out of band without hearing "Numbers Stations." Also Cherry Ripe was active as we said until almost 2010.

Would you believe you can now actually buy a 4 CD set of NUMBERS. Again check out www.somethingelserreviews.com.

Steam-Powered Radio Waves

It's time for some holiday lyrical liveliness and thus a Dr Beldarization of the John Hartford tune, "Steam Powered Aereo-Plain". You probably know John better from his classic "Gentle On My Mind" but the album "Aereo-Plain", released in 1971, changed bluegrass and acoustic music in a big way. I have always loved the image of a steam-powered airplane, derived from John's love of riverboats, and when the thought occurred of morphing "aereo-plane" into "radio wave," well, the image was just right for the simultaneous ending of one year - perhaps you are reading this between Straight Key Night QSOs on an old tube rig - and the beginning of the next. As usual, Dr Beldar got a little carried away and added a couple of verses, as well. You can hear the original online, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWDdvxWMI_E, and sing along, perhaps? Happy New Year to all of the *Contest Update* family - I hope you have a wonderful 2014!

Steam-Powered Radio Wave

Well I dreamt I flew away
As a steam powered radio wave
I sent and received and waited for you
To come back again.
I didn't go very fast
As a steam powered radio wave
Oh the fields spun around and up and down
And got small and then big again

(Refrain)

Way above the MUF
Just watching those layers fly by
Won't come back down
Without some UV ray-hey-heys
I'd rather be received by a Yagi
High up in some DX city
As a genuine old-fashioned authentic
Steam powered radio wave!

Well I'd like to be the vector
Of a steam powered radio wave
Well I'd spin my arrowhead around
And then back again
And I'd wear a blue hat (Yeah!)



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That says "Steam Powered Radio Wave"
My call sign up around the brim
And then back again.

(Refrain)

Well my vacuum tube
Makes a steam powered radio wave
The filament gets a little orange-red
Glowin' kinda dim
The plate turns red
Makin' steam powered radio waves
From electrons passin' through the grid
And then back again

(Refrain)

Well I woke up from my dream
As a steam powered radio wave
I looked around the shack and saw my rig
Got left on again
But I still had the hat (Yeah!)
That says "Steam Powered Radio Wave"
I think I'll wear it to the hamfest
And then back again

Way above the MUF
Just watching those layers fly by.
Won't come back down
Without some UV ray-hey-heys
I'd rather be received by a Yagi
High up in some DX city
As a genuine old fashioned authentic
Steam powered radio wave!

73, Ward NØAX

Ground Rods

If there's anything harder than getting ground rods into the ground, it's getting them *out* of the ground. Greg, W8WWV, invented this "K8AZ Ground Rod Puller" complete with YouTube video demonstration <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyJ8PACKR3Y&feature=youtu.be>. This looks a lot easier than how I usually do it! (Thanks, Tom K8AZ)

Reverse Beacon Network

For tips on how to get spotted more easily by the Reverse Beacon Network, <http://reversebeacon.net>, see some of the presentations linked from Bob, N6TV's page on QRZ.com <http://www.qrz.com/db/n6tv>. Similarly, this can also help you *avoid* getting spotted if that suits your strategy a bit better.



African DX

Mozambique, C9, (Update). By the time you read this, operators John, ZS5J, and YL Beth,

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2W0VOW, will once again be in Ponta de Ouro and be active as C91J and C91B, respectively. John informs OPDX that their "ten day C91J and C91B DXpedition (earlier this month) was such a success (and really enjoyable) that we have negotiated with the owner of the sea-view cabin we stayed in, to go back for another ten days. We will be in Mozambique tomorrow 28 December to 6 January. We will be taking more antennas this time, specifically...resonant antennas on 40, 17 and 12, so we will be able to use the amplifier on these bands, which we were not able to do on our last trip. So, 40 - 6 metres, SSB, CW and we will attempt the digital modes and RTTY also." Remember, you can see pictures from Beth on QRZ.com under C91B. QSL only direct to PO Box 102303, Meerensee, 3901 South Africa (with 3 USDs and your QSL card, and you will get a QSL card back direct via air mail).

Kenya, 5Z. "DX-World.net" reports that Scott, WA5A, will be active as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka starting around the first week of January 2014 until about 28 January. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. QSL via his home call sign.

Senegal, 6W. Just a reminder that Francis, F6BLP, will once again be active as 6W7SK from Saly Portudal, 80 km south of Dakar on the coast, between 3 and 31 January. Activity will be holiday style using the same station as last time (IC-7000 into G5RV antenna) operating mainly CW on 80 - 10 metres. If possible, he also hopes to be active on 160 m with an Inverted L. QSL via F6BLP, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. For more details, logs and pictures of his last operation, visit <http://www.f6blp.org>

Malawi, 7Q. Ken, LA7GIA, is expected to be active as 7Q7GIA for one week in May/June of 2014. QSL via his home call sign.

The Gambia, C5. Pedro, ON7WP/C5WP, announced on QRZ.com that he and Andre, ON7YK/C5YK, are or will be the only two permanent licensed amateurs in The Gambia for 2014 (as of now). Pedro will be active between 11 and 15 January, from the village Buntu (where he does charity care), and has set up his permanent base station (Kenwood TRC-80 Bush Radio and a brand new 5 band Spiderbeam). He also states [edited], "Additionally, I will put up some traveling wave V-beam antennas to USA and EU. We will also try some low band activity, but due to poor soil conductivity I expect not too much apart from extremely low noise levels (closest electricity wall outlet is 80 km away). Between 16 and 22 January, we will move to the Kololi area where we will try some serious Low Band stuff based on a sea mounted vertical, together with dipoles and the V-beam for the high bands." See QRZ.com for QSL info.

Mozambique, C9, (Update). Karel, ZS6ALB, informs OPDX that he is now permanently based in Mozambique and is active as C91KHN (C91C during contest) from Matola, Mozambique (Grid locator KG64fa). He has been busy upgrading his station, changing the current Hygain tri-bander for a Mosley 67B 6-bander. However, Karel informed OPDX on Christmas Eve that he "will be away for the festive season and will be back in C9 country on 13 January 2014." After the upgrades, he states that he will be active on the following bands and modes:

Band Operations: 6 m - 5 element Yagi; 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 m - Mosley 67B

Modes: SSB and Digital modes PSK31, RTTY and JT65A (using Rigblaster Advantage)

QSL via his home call sign direct (preferred). Log will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.

Morocco, 5C. Ruggero, IK2PZC, will once again be active as 5C2P between 6 and 9 February. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and RTTY. He will also participate in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest (8 and 9 February). QSL via IK2PZC.

Benin, TY, (Update). Wim, ON6DX (ex-ON4CIT), who was active as 5V7TH recently from Togo, announced this past week he finally received his Benin call sign TY1TT from the telecom authorities. He states, "Was not easy, took me the longest time and most expensive ever to get a call sign. Now I can plan flights and lodging beginning 2014 in Benin." No specific dates were mentioned yet. Activity will be from Grand PoPo and opera-

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tions will be on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Wim did mention, "Clublog is a fine tool, but this year: OQRS QSL: Yes, but... But no more clublog leaderboards." Read his reason and look for updates at <http://www.dxpedition.be/Benin.html>

African Islands

Tanzania, 5H, AF-032. Vittorio, I2GPT, will be active as 5H1VC from Zanzibar Island (WLOTA 1080, WWFF 5HFF-003) between 4 and 12 January. Activity will be on 40 - 10 metres using CW and RTTY (20 m only) for the first time (Please have patience). QSL via RW6HS, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.



Chagos, VQ9, (Update). Last week we reported that Jim, ND9M, is once again active as VQ9JC from Diego Garcia. Jim informed OPDX that he arrived on the island a month ago, but he had to get his license renewed; it expired a couple days before he landed. Jim states, "Normally, I get it renewed within one business day, but this time there was an administrative hiccup that led to a month-long delay. The British military officer in charge of the island - called the 'Brit Rep' - was new to his post here. He read all the can's and cannot's of the job, and the legal info about issuing ham licenses says that tickets are signed by the Territorial Commissioner who's back in the U.K. The Brit Rep finally got the official word last week that issuing authority was delegated to the local office, and my license was signed the next day. This was the first time in the 15 years I've been coming here that anything like that had happened. In fact, licensing had been so smooth here that in 2008, I walked in to the Brit Rep's office without an appointment and left 45 minutes later with not only a signed renewal for my regular VQ9JC license but also a special temporary license for my VQ98JC operation. I wonder if anyone else can claim receiving two licenses fully authorized without previous notice that fast!

Anyway, I'm still operating Field Day style from the covered picnic table at the park which has AC power and dozens of gecko lizards chasing the bugs. The table is about 30 feet from the wall of the jungle, and this weekend I'll try to thread a 135-foot OCF dipole through all the trees in the jungle so that I can not only leave the antenna up but also have multi-band capability. If I hoist the antenna where it can be seen, I would stand a very good chance of it being quickly removed as the 150 pound fishing line that I use to secure the antenna and the copper wire are both precious commodities here. The OCF dipole doesn't work on 15, 30 or 60 m, even with a matchbox, so I'll put up separate dipoles for 15 and 30 and feed those two and the OCF to a switch. I don't know yet if I'll put up a 60 m dipole. The 80 m OCF is going to be a big enough project just to get it hoisted to only 25 feet; the jungle's pretty thick! I'll also be putting up a 20 m dipole and maybe a 30 m dipole as well on the ship. Obviously, I sign /MM during any contacts made from the ship as I did earlier this year. Contacts with me as /MM aren't valid for DXCC of course, but SKCC ops can count them if my ship's QTH is near the island. The rig is an FT-857D. I'll be running 100 watts most of the time, but I'm expecting to do some QRP work from here too. Most of my operating will be CW as usual (with a cootie most times), but I'll be on SSB occasionally. Also, I'm a rookie when it comes to digital comms, but I'm hoping to get my Rigblaster and FLDigi software configured to do some PSK and RTTY work. While on board the ship, I use an Icom IC-760 that I have set up in my service shop. I feed the coax through a helicopter control centre that's directly above my shop. My shipboard antennas are about 115 feet above the water line. I don't have internet connectivity when I'm at my operating QTH on the island, so I obviously can't help with real-time QSY requests or the ever present 'EU PSE' when I'm calling for NA & SA stations."

OPDX asked Jim about the status of the club station, possibly using a special VQ prefix for 2014, activity on the satellites and if he would attend the 2014 Dayton HamVention, and he replied, "Yeah, the ham club station is gone forever unfortunately. The log periodic has been grounded and dismantled, and everything in the shack has been turned back over to the Navy. I'm here six months out of the year of course, but once Larry, VQ9LA left three years ago, there was no one reliably present during my off times. When the Navy's MWR office personnel made a routine visit, they found nobody there since I was Stateside, so they decided that the club was no longer in use and took what they thought were appropriate steps. By the time I got back to the island and worked my way up the chain of command, the deal had been sealed. And yes, I'm working the

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satellites out here although there aren't many ops to work. I'll be on the birds when I get home again next year. I don't know yet if my XYL Cori (KK4CGA) and I will be at Dayton this coming May or not. We're hoping to go to New England for the ARRL Centennial in July, and we'll likely do only one trip. My assignment schedule has me returning to the ship a few days before the national convention, and I'm trying to work things out with the guy that's here when I'm off ship for him to stay a little longer so that I can attend. He hasn't given me a firm answer yet though..... My plan for 2014 is to get VQ94JC issued for sometime during the second half of the year. The local licensing office has no requirements toward my getting a ticket other than having one already issued by the FCC. My US license expires in April, and the FCC won't enable the renewing process until 90 days before the expiration date, so I have to wait until early January to do that. If I can get the renewed license here - actually just a scanned copy will do and my XYL will send that - I can turn that over to the local office, and they should issue me the short-term ticket. Emphasis on special. It's all legal of course, but the folks in that office are all British military who typically do one-year tours here before being re-assigned, so I can never assume that the next person will cooperate.

I'm optimistic though as I've already had 7 VQ9xJC licenses plus the VQ975FOC ticket earlier this year, so the precedent's pretty well established. When I started doing the VQ9xJC bit in 2007, I did it just for fun and I thought the WPX chasers would like it. I really didn't expect to still be doing it after so many years. Now I'm looking ahead at rounding out the decade of annual special call signs and thinking about what special prefix variation to initiate after the 10th one!" QSL via ND9M.

60 Metre News

The Spanish PTT has authorised the use of several frequencies in the 5 MHz (60 m) band from 1 January to 30 June 2014. The authorised frequencies are 5 268, 5 295, 5 313, 5 382, 5 430 and 5 439 kHz with a power of 100 W PEP.

Following an earlier test in 2011, ten Czech amateurs received permission to use 5 MHz for 2014. The authorised SSB and CW frequencies are 5 288.5, 5 330.5, 5 366.5, 5 371.5, 5 398.5 and 5 403.5 kHz with a maximum power of 100 watts ERP.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 December 2013 to 6 January 2014

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 3 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 4 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

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PODXS 070 Club
PSKFest
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4
January
Mode: PSK31

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP Single Band; QRP Multiband; Low Power; Medium Power

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: Medium Power: 100 watts; Low Power: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point/QSO

Multipliers: States, provinces and countries, once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 January 2014

E-mail logs to: jbudzowski@verizon.net

Mail logs to: Jay Budzowski, 070 Club PSKFest, 109 S. Northview Ave., New Castle, PA 16102-1633, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/pskfest>

WW PMC Contest

12:00 UTC 4 January to 12:00 UTC 5 January

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - Peace Messenger City or World - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op - CW, SSB or Mixed - Peace Messenger City or World
Exchange: PMC: RS(T) and PMC abbreviation; World: RS(T) and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each PMC once per mode per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 February 2014

E-mail logs to: pmc@s59dcd.si

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.s59dcd.si/en10/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=92

QRP ARCI Pet Rock Sprint

15:00 - 18:00 UTC 4 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI

number or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus points: 5 000 for battery power portable with temporary antenna; 2 000 per band for rockbound receiver; 3 000 per band for rockbound transmitter

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once per band; Power Mult: $>5\text{ W} = \times 1$, $1 - 5\text{ W} = \times 7$, $500\text{ mW} - 1\text{ W} = \times 10$, $200 - 500\text{ mW} = \times 15$, $55 - 200\text{ mW} = \times 20$, $<55\text{ mW} = \times 25$

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 18 January 2014

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Pet Rock Sprint, C/O Jeff Hetherington, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/contests/pet-rock-sprint-2014>

ARRL RTTY Roundup

18:00 UTC 4 January to 24:00 UTC 5 January

Mode: RTTY, Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high; Single Op Unlimited - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; non-W/VE: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each US state (except KH6/KL7) once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country (including KH6/KL7) once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 6 February 2014

E-mail logs to: RTTYRU@arrl.org

Mail logs to: RTTY Roundup, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

EUCW 160 m Contest

20:00 - 23:00 UTC 4 January and 04:00 - 07:00 UTC 5 January

Mode: CW

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Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: A: 150 W or more, member of affiliated club; B: 5 - 150 W, member of affiliated club; C: 5 W or less, member of affiliated club; D: Other stations, no power limitations; E: SWL

Exchange: Affiliated Club Member: RST, name, club and membership no; Other: RST, name and "NM"

Work stations: Once per day

QSO Points: QSO with station in same DXCC country: 1 point; QSO with station in different DXCC country, but same continent: 2 points; QSO with station in different continent: 5 points; QSO with official EUCW club station: 10 points

Multipliers: EUCW clubs, once per day

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 February 2014

E-mail logs to: f6cel@orange.fr

Mail logs to: Ghislain Barbason, 5 rue de l'Ecluse, F-02190 Pignicourt, France

Find rules at: <http://www.eucw.org/eu160.html>

Kid's Day Contest

18:00 - 23:59 UTC 5 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2 m repeaters

Classes: (none)

Exchange: name, age, QTH and favourite colour

Submit logs by: 4 February 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: (see rules)

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

ARS Spartan Sprint

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 9 January 2014

E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 8 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 9 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Close to Thirteen Thousand Radio Amateurs have made contact with ZS9MADIBA

ZS9MADIBA obtained a Worked All States (WAS) award within the first 2 weeks of being on the air which is a remarkable achievement and is close to achieving a DXCC on all the modes of operation, SSB, CW and Digital. At the time of writing SARL News, ZS9MADIBA had achieved the following number of contacts and confirmations - 12 846 QSO records and 4 370 QSL records. The DXCC mode status is as follows: Mixed 93, CW 80, Phone 65 and Digital 65. The WAS mode status is as follows - Basic 50, CW 49, Phone 45, Digital 39

SARL Vice President and Contest Manager, Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL, thanks the 12 local amateurs who have given their time and effort to make this event a success. The radio amateurs who operated ZS9MADIBA are as follows - Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, Paul Johnson, ZS1S, Robert Bareham, ZS1SA, GW Wessels, ZS1VV, John Golby, ZS1ZC, Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, Massimo Rossi, ZS5MAX, Noel Hammond, ZR6DX, Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR6K, Adrian Bezuidenhout, ZR6O, Pierre van Deventer, ZS6A, Dirk Els, ZS6AKU, Pam Momberg, ZS6APT, Joop Hesp, ZS6C, Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL, Pine Pienaar, ZS6OB, Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, and Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN.

The radio amateurs who have achieved over a 1 000 contacts are as follows - Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, 6 628 contacts, Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 1 367 contacts, Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, 1 092 contacts and Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WM, 1 059 contacts, this includes ZR6K and ZR6O.

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If there was an award for the most enthusiastic radio amateur it would go to Theunis, ZS2EC. Theunis just keeps on going day and night. Well done Theunis. A special word of thanks to Roger, ZS6RJ. His tally of contacts says it all.

ZS9MADIBA still needs 8 ZS6 stations to obtain a WAZS 100. Thank you for your support. ZS9MADIBA will be active until 11 January 2014. More information can be found on www.sarl.org.za

History this week - starting 30 December 2013

1791 - A US patent for spinning cotton by water power was issued to William Pollard of Philadelphia

1879 - Inventor Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, New Jersey

1913 - Dr William David Coolidge patented a method for making ductile tungsten for making filaments for electric lamps

1 January was a busy day! And there was a lot more, HI HI.

5777 BC - Origin of Solar Cycle

4714 BC - Origin of Julian Period (Year 0)

4713 BC - Julian Year 1 begins, at Greenwich mean noon

0045 BC - Origin of Julian Era; Julian calendar begins

0038 BC - Origin of Era of Spain (Caesars)

0030 BC - Origin of Actian Era

0001 BC - Origin of Era of Pisa

0001 - Origin of Christian Era

1622 - Papal Chancery adopts 1 January as beginning of the year (previously it was 25 March)

1889 - A motor vehicle excise tax of 2 Guineas took effect in Great Britain

1896 - Wilhelm Röntgen announces his discovery of x-rays

1901 - Australia becomes a united Commonwealth of six British colonies.

1902 - The first radio broadcast demonstration in the USA was given by Nathan B. Stubblefield

1903 - The first transpacific cable from the USA was landed at Honolulu, Hawaii

1962 - The last signals from the OSCAR 1 satellite were received as its non-rechargeable battery failed.

1972 - Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) was adopted worldwide.

2000 - Greenwich Electronic Time - known as GeT - was initiated in Britain

After 1 January -

1714 - The typewriter was patented by Englishman Henry Mill but not developed.

1838 - Samuel Morse, with his partner, Alfred Vail, gave the first public demonstration of their new invention electric telegraphic system at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, NJ

1863 - Four-wheeled roller skates were patented by James Plimpton of New York

1871 - Oleomargarine (Margarine) was patented by Henry Bradley in Binghamton, NY.

1890 - The seals were broken on the standard kilogram and metre for the USA measurement units

1896 - The discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Rontgen was published in an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse

1904 - Marconi Co established "CQD" as first international radio distress signal.

1927 - Commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News